



Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) for Student Leaders Exchange Program



Sponsored by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

Approximate dates: June 25 - August 5, 2017

The U.S. Embassy in Morocco is pleased to announce the call for applications for the 2017 Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) for Student Leaders Exchange Program.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) for Student Leaders program seeks undergraduate students in any field of academic specialization who fulfill the conditions below:

- Are Moroccan citizens 20 to 24 years of age;
- Demonstrate strong English language skills needed to participate in a U.S. academic program;
- Are committed to returning to Morocco following completion of the program;
- Demonstrate strong leadership potential and a commitment to being generators of positive change within their respective communities;
- Indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;
- Have a sustained high level of academic achievement;
- Demonstrate a commitment to civic engagement;
- Have no prior travel experience in the United States and limited to no study or travel experience outside Morocco;
- Are willing and able to participate fully in intensive academic, community service, and educational travel activities;
- Are comfortable with campus life, sharing living accommodations while traveling with a multinational group of participants from the Middle East and North Africa region and with U.S. citizens, and making adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home countries/communities;
- Are comfortable of possibly spending Eid in the United States.

HOW TO APPLY?

Candidates should submit their online application at <https://studentleaders.fluidreview.com/>

The application deadline is December 31, 2016. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

Any question can be sent to the following e-mail address rabatexchanges@state.gov.

The online application includes the following information:

- Candidate's complete contact information, including mailing address, email, and phone number;
- Candidate's updated résumé highlighting civic engagement, leadership and/or work experience, extracurricular activities, and academic honors;
- A scanned copy of the photo page of candidate's passport;
- Name of candidate's college/university;
- Candidate's field of study;
- Evidence of high academic achievement;
- Candidate's response, in 500 words or less, to each of the following questions:
 - Write about a problem currently affecting your community. If it were within your abilities, how would you work to solve this problem?
 - What are the qualities of an effective leader? Name one leader living today whom you admire and explain why.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) for Student Leaders program is an intensive six-week exchange program for undergraduate students from the Middle East and North Africa that focuses on the development of the participants' leadership skills and expands their understanding of American society and culture. The Student Leaders Program includes an academic program conducted by scholars and other professionals with expertise in leadership and U.S. Studies, as well as a study tour to other regions of the United States. Through this program, students will develop leadership skills and learn about historical and contemporary American politics, institutions, society, and values. An interdisciplinary and experiential approach is used to explore concepts of leadership, citizenship, and civic activism through workshops, academic sessions, site visits, and social/cultural events. In addition, students learn about volunteerism and community involvement in the United States through organized activities with service organizations.

Once students return home, they will continue fostering greater intercultural understanding by sharing their experiences and perspectives with others and by implementing civic engagement programs in Morocco. This program is funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative. The fellowship provides international and domestic travel, health insurance, housing and a moderate living stipend.

This program is very competitive. Following assessment of applications, pre-selected candidates will be invited for an interview with a jury at the U.S. Embassy in Rabat. Final selection will be announced by March 2017.